**SIG in Neurodevelopmental Disorder**

**Annual Report to Council for 2017**

Once the formation of the SIG had been approved by Council, an initial meeting was held on Wednesday 15th February 2017, to which were invited those people who had registered their support for the development of the SIG. Thirteen people attended and elected a Chair (Tom Berney) and a Finance Officer (Peter Carpenter). After an introductory welcome by the Registrar, there were presentations on Autism (by the Autism Champion, Dr Ian Davidson) and ADHD in Adulthood (by Professors Philip Asherson and Marios Adamou) outlining the SIG’s focus on these two disorders. However, in sketching out the aims of the SIG, it was emphasised that other neurodevelopmental disorders were to be included in the SIG’s remit.

**A website** was established, providing a means of enrolling; the SIG has grown to a total of 471 members. It is planned that this will provide a portal to autism resources (Dr. Davidson is to take the lead on this). Regarding ADHD, Asherson and Adamou are executive members of the UK Adult ADHD Network which already runs a suitable website resource – links will therefore be made to this pre-existing and other relevant resources for ADHD.

**A forum for discussion** was one of the SIG’s aims and Freedcamp has been adopted for this; 62 members enrolling.

**A one-day conference** was arranged at the College on the 20th November 2017, on a varied range of topics. Limited to 50 places, it was overbooked. The formal feedback was positive, and it was proposed to hold a similar meeting in the North.

The conference gave the opportunity to hold a business meeting and the Executive committee was extended to ensure coverage of a range of neurodevelopmental disorders and to delegate responsibility for various aspects of the SIG’s activity.

**The committee** includes:

Dr Tom Berney (Chair & Freedcamp editor)

Dr. Peter Carpenter (Finance Officer)

Dr Ian Davidson (Autism Champion)

Prof Phil Asherson (ADHD lead)

Prof Marios Adamou (Secretary)

Prof Terry Brugha

Dr Huw Dunton (Trainee Committee)

Dr Helen Matthews (Academic Secretary)

Dr Raja Mukherjee (Academic Secretary)

Dr Prajikta Patil (Freedcamp editor)

Dr Stephen Chan (Website editor)

**The Autism Programme** (of which the Autism Champion initiative is a component) has, as its purpose, the development of autism awareness and expertise across the field of psychiatry. The website includes a copy of the College Guide to the Diagnosis of Autism as well as a companion educational programme; both revised to bring consistency with the DSM-5 criteria. Funding has been received from the DH and has been used to extend the range of video material available. The programme is being developed with the support of a committee

Dr Terry Brugha (Chair)

Dr Ian Davidson (Autism Champion)

Dr Tom Berney

Dr Peter Carpenter

Dr Ashok Roy

Dr Ian Hall (CALC)

Mr Noel McKenna (Parent)

Mr. Damian Milton (Autistic person)

**The CPD Group in Autism in Able Adults** has been meeting quarterly since its establishment by Prof Brugha in 2008 under the aegis of the Faculty of Intellectual Disability Psychiatry and is now to fall under the SIG. Its quarterly meetings are attended by 10-20 of its 44 members. Memebership is by invitation and requires that a substantial element of the person’s work (whether clinical or academic) is in this area.

**The ADHD programme** is supported by the Adult ADHD Network ([www.ukaan.org](http://www.ukaan.org)), which was initiated in 2009 as a group of health care professionals with expertise in the diagnosis and clinical management of ADHD in adults; to support awareness and implementation of the NICE guidelines for ADHD across the lifespan from 2009 and 2018 (to be published early next year), and development of clinical services, and provide a network for clinical research. Activities include training of clinicians, guideline development, publications on clinical management (including clinical handbook), and national/international meetings. Current Executive members of UKAAN who are members of this SIG and will support developments for ADHD are:

* Philip Asherson (Chair)
* Marios Adamou
* Muhammad Arif
* James Kustow
* Ulrich Muller

**The CPD group in ADHD in Intellectual Disability** is a group that is being marshalled by Dr. Bhathika Perera & Dr. Jane McCarthy and is to start meeting in the new year,

**The aims of the SIG** set out at its inaugural meeting are:

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| To promote a wider discussion and understanding of neurodevelopmental disorder across the whole of psychiatry and to act as source of information and networking. | The Freedcamp Forum has been established and Dr Praktil is to take responsibility for it over the next year.  The revision of CR191 (Good Practice in the management of autism in adults) started this month with the consultation of other disciplines through the LD Senate. One point that will be explored is whether there might be the potential for the revision to address the wider brief of neurodevelopmental disorder rather than focusing solely on ASD.  ADHD is covered comprehensively by UKAAN publications. The clinical handbook for ADHD in adults will be revised once NICE guidelines are published early in 2018. In the year up to December 2018 there will be a focus on improving understanding of ADHD in mainstream psychiatric services including primary and secondary mental health care, and liaison with user groups to develop online information. |
| To support academic and clinical developments in this field | A successful day meeting at the College is to be followed by other meetings outside London, venue depending on availability.  The CPD programme in Autism is already established. That for ADHD (ID) is to start next year. |
| To support a College wide, cross faculty approach to psychiatric training in this area both the levels of the core training and at CPD. *Although we would continue to pursue ADHD & ASD as individual topics, they would also seek to promote training and experience in neurodevelopmental disorder.* | Dr. Davidson already has this in hand for autism. He will be joined by Prof Adamou for ADHD |
| To develop and maintain the SIG website. This would be a series of devolved areas of special interest/expertise. | An initial website has been established  Dr Chan is to encourage people to propose potential areas/pages and to register their interest in leading on these  Dr Davidson will lead on development of portal to online info on management of ASD. They will liaise with Prof Asherson and over links and resources for ADHD. |
| To enable a coordinate approach to policy issues (including governmental consultations) *This will require the availability of people willing to take part in the discussion, collate a view of a topic or respond to a consultation paper over the various aspects of neurodevelopmental disorder* | People have been asked to register their areas of interest/expertise |
| To facilitate links with other organisations in this field | To list links with external organisations on the web page to promote a coordinate approach |
| To help provide support to psychiatrists who themselves have neurodevelopmental disorders | To be available to the clinicians engaged in the psychiatric support service.  Dr Davidson has held discussions and is aware of those who might be available to help when need arises. Profs Asherson and Adamou are available to provide advice for ADHD and are aware of those who might be available to help. |